

AMK Opening Statement
Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee
Hearing on Substance Use Disorder
April 14, 2021

- Thank you, Chairwoman Eshoo.
- As we are all too well aware, the pandemic has exacerbated the already dire addiction and mental health crises in our country.
- From August 2019 to August 2020, 88,000 Americans died of an overdose. This is the highest number ever recorded over 12 months.
- But we also know the addiction and overdose crisis in this country did not occur overnight: It has devastated communities in New Hampshire and across the US for over a decade.
- What began as an opioid crisis has evolved to an epidemic that knows no bounds: It impacts every community, no matter the race. It is cross-regional, and it is intergenerational.
- The complexity of this epidemic is urgent: overdose deaths due to synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and fentanyl analogues have continued to rise, and what we have learned in New Hampshire is that there is no

silver bullet - it's an all hands on deck approach, and any serious solution must also look at comprehensive reforms to both our public health and criminal justice system.

- That is why I am pleased to see my bill, the Support, Treatment, and Overdose Prevention of Fentanyl Act, included in today's hearing.
- I look forward to discussing it more, and hope that all of my colleagues recognize the urgency of this crisis.
- Thank you, Chairwoman Eshoo for the time, and including my bill to support both public health and public safety efforts in responding to fentanyl. This can be a real game changer, and I am grateful for the opportunity to discuss this legislation today.